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OCTOBER 6, 2023 BY RONNIE

Rebel News Abandons Lawsuit Against Canada Revenue Agency After 2 Months

Doc	Date Filed	Office	Recorded Entry Summary
5	2022-05-26	Calgary	Affidavit of service of Kenneth Ip sworn on 26-MAY-2022 on behalf of Applicant confirming service of Notice of Discontinuance upon Respondent by email on 26-MAY-2022 with Exhibits A filed on 26-MAY-2022
4	2022-05-26	Calgary	Discontinuance on behalf of Applicant filed on 26-MAY-2022
3	2022-04-12	Calgary	Solicitor's certificate of service on behalf of Wendy Bridges confirming service of Notice of Appearance upon Applicant by telecopier on 12-APR-2022 filed on 12-APR-2022
2	2022-04-12	Calgary	Notice of appearance on behalf of Respondent filed on 12-APR-2022
null	2022-04-07	Calgary	Rule 133 service affected on the Crown placed on file on 07-APR-2022
1	2022-04-07	Calgary	Notice of application with regard to Judicial Review (s.18) filed on 07-APR-2022 Tariff fee of $50.00 received: yes

REBELNEWS
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Rebel News is suing Justin Trudeau
Trudeau's hand-picked censors declare that only 1% of what Rebel News publishes is news and won't give us a government news licence — we are fighting back, but we need your help.
By Ezra Levant | April 07, 2022 | Advocacy
BREAKING: Trudeau's Censors Deny Rebel News a 'Journalism Licence'
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WE'RE SUING

This is a follow-up to an April 2022 article, which covered Rebel News suing the Canada Revenue Agency (the C.R.A.) for access to various subsidies. A Notice of Application was filed to challenge the C.R.A.'s decision. However, nothing seems to have been announced afterwards, which was odd.

As it turns out, the lawsuit was discontinued less than 2 months later. It was done on consent, and without costs. The Federal Court allows members of the public to check the status of cases online, and to get summaries of what has progressed.

There were no hearings or motions, just a Notice of Appearance filed by the Department of Justice on behalf of the Attorney General of Canada.

While this lawsuit was publicly sold as a way to protect free speech, it comes across as far less idealistic. Rebel wanted to be classified as a QCJO, or a qualified Canadian journalism organization, and that was denied. There are significant financial considerations at play here.

This was also announced on Twitter.

But the April 7, 2022 article states this:

> So Rebel News is fighting back. Because if we don't fight back now ***they're going to destroy us — like Trudeau is doing more and more to his peaceful political opponents***. He wants to try to do to us what he did to the truckers — if he had his way he'd ***put us in jail and seize our bank accounts***. This is a step in that direction — having a government panel ***declare, legally, that our journalists are not actually journalists***.

> Because if they can do this to us, their largest independent critic left, they'll do this to anyone. They'll censor you. Which is why we have to fight back now — not later, right now. ***There might not even be a later***.

> The outcome of that lawsuit will affect us, obviously. But it will affect everyone. Anyone in Canada ***who wants to do journalism without government censorship***. And every citizen in Canada who wants the ***freedom to choose their own choice of news***, without some secret government panel deciding what is or isn't real news.

> I don't know if there are other journalists who are being censored; I know if they succeed, ***we won't be the last***. I think we're likely the only ones who can and will fight back. Good news is, ***we've got an absolute top-notch legal team***.

This is hyperbolic and misleading. The C.R.A. is responsible for overseeing various programs which result in tax breaks and subsidies, including for media outlets. The C.R.A. decided (rightly or wrongly) that Rebel News didn't meet the criteria for subsidies.

There's also the bemusement in seeing such a lawsuit coming from an organization that purports to rail against Trudeau funding the media at all.

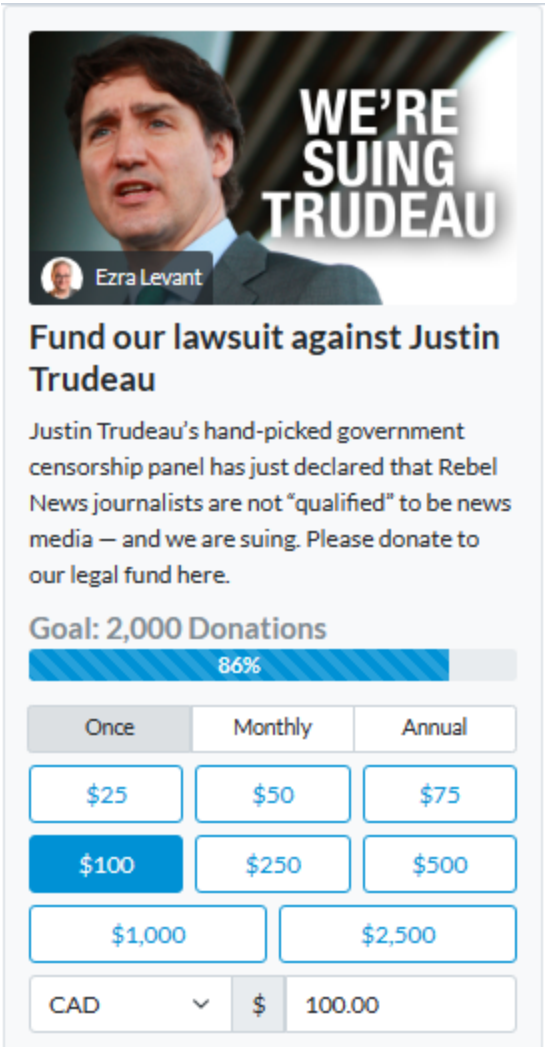
Here are the current registered journalism organizations:

- La Presse Inc.
- The Narwhal News Society
- Presse-Ouest Ltée
- Journaldesvoisins.com
- New Canadian Media
- The Local TO Publishing

- The Canadian Jewish News
- Chateauguay Valley Community Information Services
- Coopérative nationale de l'information indépendante
- La Gazette de la Mauricie

If Rebel had gotten their QCJO designation, what would they be receiving?

(a) Canadian Journalism Labour Tax Credit: this would pay up to 25% of salaries of the business' employees, which are typically the biggest expense
(b) Digital News Subscription Tax Credit: subscribers would receive a tax rebate of up to 15%
(c) Registered Journalism Organization Status: going the next step, QCJOs would be able to qualify as RJO as well, and start issuing tax receipts, similar to how charities operate.



According to their own records, Rebel succeeded in getting 86% of the 2,000 donors that were sought. This would translate to approximately 1,720 individual donors.

If there really was such a top-notch legal team on the case, why abandon it in the beginning stages? Rebel hasn't succeeded in getting the QCJO designation, so it's not like Ottawa quietly capitulated.

However, it doesn't seem that any of the money has been returned. The donation function on the article hasn't been taken down either.

So, not only does that mean we're not allowed to attend government press conferences, it also punishes us under Income Tax Act.

The C.R.A. has nothing to do with deciding who can attend government press conferences, or debates in political elections. So including this is a red herring. This lawsuit is about getting access to subsidy money, and tax breaks.

Or at least it was, until it was abandoned in May 2022.

FEDERAL COURT DOCUMENTS:
(A) T-720-22 Document #1 Notice Of Application
(B) T-720-22 Document #2 Notice of Appearance
(C) T-720-22 Document #4 Notice of Discontinuance
(D) T-720-22 Document #5 Affidavit of Service

OTHER LINKS:
(1) https://www.rebelnews.com/rebel_news_is_suing_justin_trudeau
(2) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4b_1vwGrcY4&t
(3) https://archive.ph/beOQY
(4) https://www.fct-cf.gc.ca/en/court-files-and-decisions/court-files#cont
(5) https://twitter.com/RebelNewsOnline/status/1512229529737211921
(6) https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/businesses/topics/corporations/business-tax-credits/canadian-journalism-labour-tax-credit/qualified-canadian-journalism-organization.html
(7) https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/businesses/topics/corporations/business-tax-credits/canadian-journalism-labour-tax-credit.html
(8) https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/about-your-tax-return/tax-return/completing-a-tax-return/deductions-credits-expenses/deductions-credits-expenses/digital-news-subscription.html

(9) https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/businesses/topics/corporations/business-tax-credits/canadian-journalism-labour-tax-credit/registered-journalism-organization.html
(10) https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/charities-giving/list-charities/list-charities-other-qualified-donees.html
(11) https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/charities-giving/other-organizations-that-issue-donation-receipts-qualified-donees/other-qualified-donees-listings/list-registered-journalism-organizations.html

CANADA, FREE SPEECH, MEDIA

3 Replies to “Rebel News Abandons Lawsuit Against Canada Revenue Agency After 2 Months”

smayer97

OCTOBER 6, 2023 AT 11:33 AM

Who issues the QCJO and RCJ Designations? Your article seems to imply it is the CRA. If so, the statement “The C.R.A. has nothing to do with deciding who can attend government press conferences, or debates in political elections.” would be inaccurate, since the implication is that the lack of these designations do prevent attendance qualifications.

Please clarify.

Ronnie

OCTOBER 6, 2023 AT 11:48 AM

It’s exactly as written.

QCJO and RJO designations from the C.R.A. entitle recipients to fairly substantial tax benefits. This has nothing to do with whether they can attend press conferences or political debates. Nor does it determine if/how they are allowed to operate in Canada. CBC/CTV/Global don’t have either designation, but they cover virtually everything political.

smayer97

OCTOBER 6, 2023 AT 11:49 AM

Thx